INTRODUCTION

1.1 Committee were advised on 6 March 2002 that the Scottish Waste Awareness Group (SWAG) approached the Department and requested that we participate in a national scheme to raise awareness and change attitudes towards domestic waste minimisation issues throughout Scotland.

1.2 The outcome of this survey has now been received and some of the findings of the report “Public Attitudes to Waste in North Lanarkshire” are submitted to Committee.

1.3 The full report is held within the Members Library.

BACKGROUND

2.1 SWAG is a Scotland-wide group whose aim is to deliver a National Campaign called “Waste Aware Scotland” to raise public awareness of waste issues with emphasis on the domestic environment.

2.2 The campaign is closely linked to the National Waste Strategy for Scotland prepared by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and adopted by the Scottish Executive.

REPORT

3.1 SWAG carried out 317 door to door surveys across North Lanarkshire.

3.2 These surveys concentrated on areas where recycling initiatives were taking place at that time (Cumbernauld and Kilsyth area/part of the Northern corridor and Bellshill).

3.3 The surveys commenced in March 2002 with a survey team working for approximately nine days.

3.4 Comparison of the two kerbside collection schemes are noted as follows:
3.4.1 88% respondents participated in the blue bin project with 84% satisfaction whereas 42% participated in the two-bag scheme with 55% satisfaction. The surveyors reported a general positive reaction to the blue wheeled bin collection scheme with a general negative reaction reported to the two bag scheme operating in the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth area with the dissatisfaction focusing on the quality of service and the provision of information

3.4.2 30% of respondents from the Bellshill area noted that they had used the refurbished Recycling and Disposal Facility at Reema Road. This is a considerably higher proportion of respondents using civic amenity sites to recycle than previously found areas of Scotland (ranging from 2% to 11%) 74% indicated that they were satisfied with the site stating that it was convenient, easy to use and had improved since the upgrade.

3.5 There is an apparent need for more information and education on a range of topics covered by the survey. These include the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse and recycle) the awareness of local waste disposal facilities and the cost of domestic waste collection and disposal. 82% of the public surveyed were unable to comment on the cost of domestic waste collection and disposal and indicated that they had no idea what it cost for the weekly collection and disposal of their household domestic waste.

3.6 The survey will be used for baseline data as we progress our “recycle for good” campaign and initiatives and as a useful data base for contacts and those willing to participate in focus groups.

3.7 To this effect a focus group meeting has been arranged for 30 July 2002 in the lesser Town Hall, Cumbernauld to discuss the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Draft Area Waste Plan. This meeting is a joint venture with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, SWAG and North Lanarkshire Council

4. FINANCE

4.1 The cost to carry out the survey was £3,474 (exclusive of VAT) which was financed from Revenue Budget

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 That Committee note the content of the SWAG report on ‘Public Attitudes to Waste in North Lanarkshire'.